

ON A NEW *HOPLOCEPHALUS* FROM THE GULF OF
CARPENTARIA.

BY WILLIAM MACLEAY, F.L.S., &c.

HOPLOCEPHALUS CARPENTARIÆ.

Scales in 15 rows.

Abdominal Plates 183.

One Anal Plate.

Sub-caudals 31.

Length, 20 inches.

Tail, $1\frac{11}{12}$ inches.

Of slightly depressed form. Head a little broader than the neck, body not much enlarged towards the middle, tail short, tapering to a fine point. Anterior frontal shields less than half the size of the posterior, a little emarginate in front to receive the rostral shield, and in contact with two-thirds of the nasal shield. The posterior frontals 5-sided, the anterior side in contact with the anterior frontals, the lateral with the hinder third of the nasal shield, the external posterior side with the preocular and superciliary shields, the internal with the vertical shield, and the inner side in contact with each other. The vertical shield is 6-sided and triangular in front and behind. The superciliaries are considerably shorter than the vertical and about half the width. There are two postocular and one preocular shields. The nasal shield is elongate and pointed behind. There are six upper and lower labial shields. The eye is of moderate size, the pupil almost round, and is in contact with six shields—the parietal, the two posterior oculars, the anterior ocular, and the third and fourth upper labials. The place of the loreal shield is occupied by

the contact of the angular points of the anterior ocular, posterior frontal, and nasal shields with the middle of the upper side of the second upper labial shield. The colour is entirely olive-brown above, and yellowish-white below. The head and nape are of a rather darker brown, the brown in each margined by a distinct black stripe which extends along the upper side of the rostral, nasal, and upper labial shields to behind the mouth, beneath which all is white. There is also a small black spot on the upper angle of the anterior ocular shield.

I am indebted to Dr. Cox for this very distinct species, which was captured near Normanton, Gulf of Carpentaria, a few months ago.